

March 2010

The weeping willow
By Kendra Rosenthal

When my teacher asked “What’s your favorite tree?”
I knew right away what my answer would be!

A tree that is tall, and makes lots of shade
In the summer I sit under it and drink lemonade!

The weeping willow is my tree, and its easy to see why
With its long flowing vines blowing beautiful in the sky.

The branches that it grows are so very long
And the trunk that it grows is so very strong.

The tree will grow to be about 40 feet tall
When it loses its leaves you know it is fall.

Weeping Willows grow best when planted by water
And help keep me cool when the weather gets hotter!

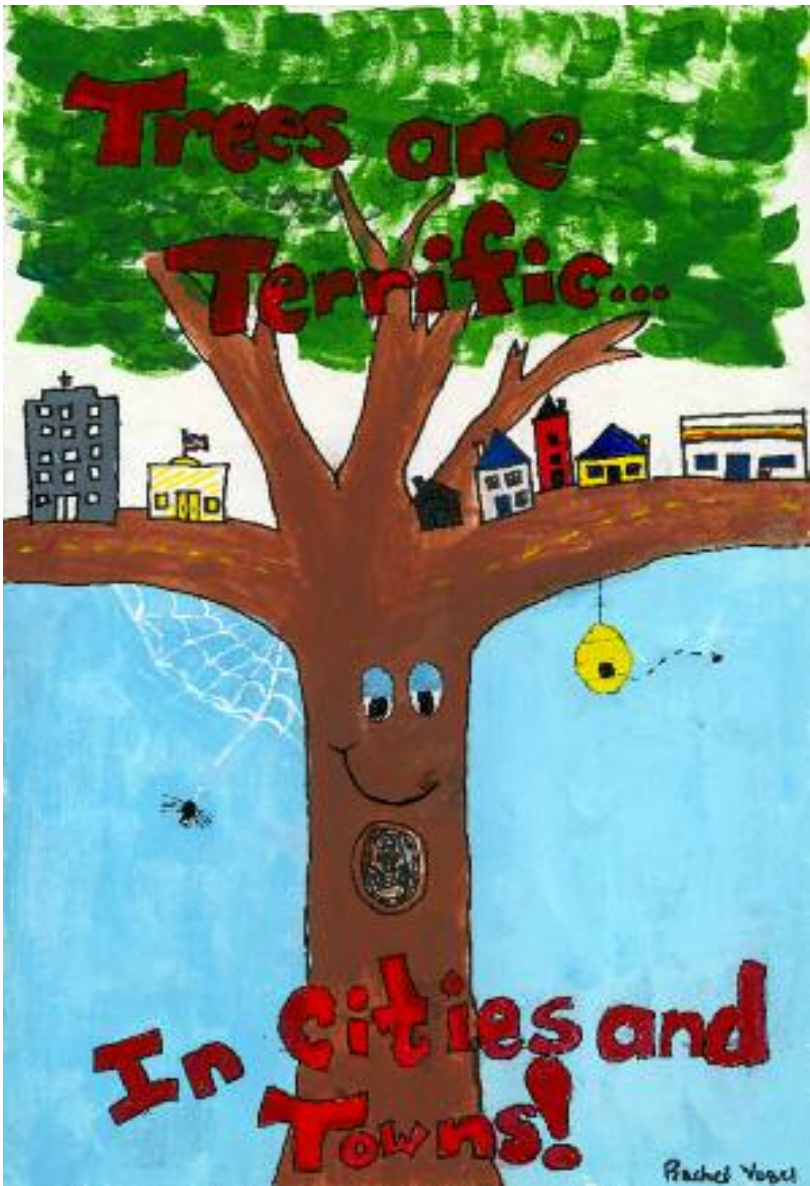
The tree will grow to be about 35 feet wide
When playing games it is the best place to hide!

Animals love to eat Weeping Willows low hanging leaves
Deer and rabbits are some of the animals it may please!

Climbing in the tree is so much fun
It gets me out of that hot summer sun!

So now you can see this is a wonderful tree
I hope you love it, just as much as me!

Coleman Elementary School, Coleman
Third Place
Teacher: Carla Bushmaker



Calendar Art by Rachel Vogel • School: Valders Middle School, Valders • Third Place
Teacher: Leeann Klein

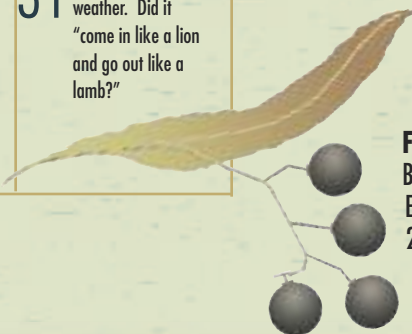
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2Read Across America Day — Have you read a book about a tree lately?	3	4Wood frogs begin calling and breeding on the first day and night over 50 degrees. Listen for their quacking-type call.	5Statewide 4th Grade Writing Contest entries due. This year’s theme: Why Plant Trees? Aldo Leopold Weekend (Mar 5 — Mar 7)	6
7Our State Bird, the American robin, begins making its way back to Wisconsin.	8	9Ducks, sandhill cranes and bald eagles return to Wisconsin. How do birds navigate their way back in the spring?	10	11It’s true! It takes 35 to 40 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of syrup.	12	13
14Daylight Savings Time begins. Set clocks ahead one hour.	15Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Applications due today.	16As rivers lose their ice, walleye and steelhead begin their runs.	17St. Patrick’s Day	18	19Chipmunks emerge from hibernation. Look for middens, or piles of pine cone shreds that chipmunks make when they eat.	20Spring begins today. Have you noticed any birds singing outside your window? Use an identification guide to learn more about them.
21Does your school have a school forest? Spring is a great time to take a visit!	22World Water Day	23Pasque flowers bloom.	24	25Take a nature hike and look for the American woodcock as it performs its mating ritual. The birds make a “peenting” noise as they spiral up into air.	26Photography Day — Take a photo of your favorite tree as it begins to leaf out.	27
28	29Fun Forestry Fact: One acre of forest produces four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.	30Full (Worm) Moon Passover	31Think about March weather. Did it “come in like a lion and go out like a lamb?”			

FEBRUARY 10

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APRIL 10

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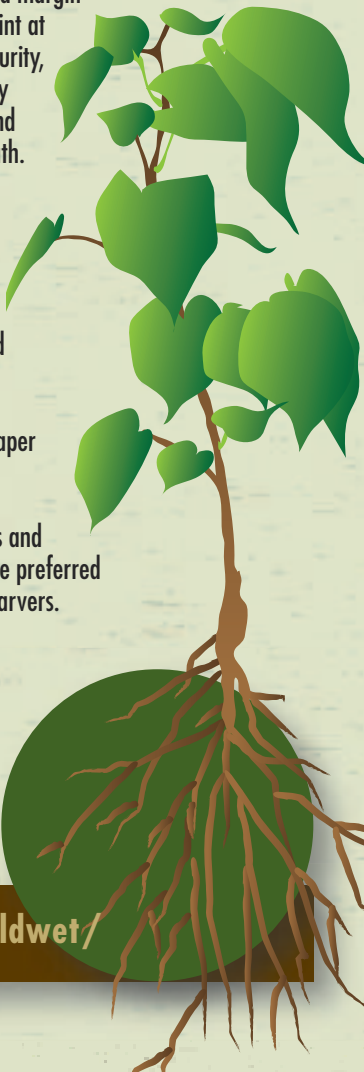
Fruit
Basswood fruit is round, hard, *nut-like* and ¼ inch in diameter. Each fruit is covered with thick, brownish-red wool and contains 1 to 2 seeds. They are attached in clusters to a leafy bract, which acts as a wing to disseminate the seeds on wind. Basswood flowers are fragrant, and from them choice-grade honey is made by bees.

American Basswood
(Tilia americana)

Form
Basswood trees grow to a height 60 to 80 feet, but it is not uncommon for them to exceed 100 feet. When cut, the stump sprouts readily and may have a group of 4 to 5 stems originating from it.

Leaf
Basswood leaves have a length and width of 4 to 6 inches. They are heart-shaped with a coarsely toothed margin and a sharp point at the tip. At maturity, leaves are shiny green above and paler underneath.

Wood
The wood of the Basswood tree is soft, light brown and not durable. It is often used to manufacture paper pulp, furniture, trunks, crates, drawing boards and lumber. It is the preferred wood of woodcarvers.



Get involved with Project Learning Tree: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet/>